

SENATE BILL 2526

By Finney L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
relative to the punishment for killing certain
animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-205, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) It is an offense to knowingly and unlawfully kill the animal of another without the owner's effective consent

(2) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) is theft of property, graded according to the value of the animal, and punished in accordance with § 39-14-105.

(3) If the animal was a police dog killed while acting in its official capacity and under the control of a law enforcement officer, the offense shall be punished in accordance with this subsection (a), but in no event shall the punishment be less than a Class D felony.

(4) In determining the value of a police dog, fire dog, search and rescue dog, service animal or police horse under § 39-14-105, the court shall consider the value of the police dog, fire dog, search and rescue dog, service animal or police horse as both the cost of the animal and any specialized training the animal received.

SECTION 2 . This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.